



## CITY OF KIRKLAND

Planning and Community Development Department

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[www.kirklandwa.gov](http://www.kirklandwa.gov)

# GUIDE TO COMPLETE ARBORIST'S REPORTS

## ARBORIST'S REPORTS SHOULD SUMMARIZE THE FOLLOWING:

1. **Findings** – include factual data such as species, location, dbh, dripline (for development review only) and general health of tree. Description of disease/structural defects (type of fungal fruiting body, presence of decay, cracks, included bark, etc.), site conditions, and potential targets is required for hazard tree removal requests. The height of a tree and the distance to a potential target should be specified. For nuisance trees, photos documenting any property damage are helpful. If necessary, verify findings using resistograph, clinometer, core sample, pathologist test results, air spade excavations, etc. *Arborists are providing the technical information required to make an informed decision about a tree.*



2. **Conclusions** – an arborist's professional assessment based on the findings. Is the tree viable? Is the tree a nuisance or a hazard? Per Kirkland's tree regulations, this assessment is necessary when removing trees in a critical area, if more than two trees are being removed within a 12 month period, or if the trees are the last two trees on a property. *Arborists are assessing potential risk for tree failure, identifying trees worthy of retention, and assessing potential damage to trees on development sites as a result of impacts from construction.*



3. **Recommendations** – based on the above. An arborist's recommendations will outline reasonable and proper arboricultural practices, and *may* include removal. For development sites, arborists need to include instructions for working within the tree's Limits of Disturbance. For tree removals within critical areas, an arborist may be required to recommend how work will be done with minimal impact to the surroundings, and recommend appropriate replacement trees. There are lists of approved replacement trees found on the City of Kirkland's website. *Recommendations identify measures in which risks are reduced to acceptable levels.*

- The ISA Tree Hazard Evaluation Form does not constitute a report, as conclusions and recommendations are not included in its format. It is, however, an excellent form for collected data in the field.
- An invoice or bid for tree work is NOT an arborist report.
- TRACE certification is an excellent basis for tree risk assessment and may be a required credential in the near future for arborists recommending tree removals in the City of Kirkland.